

Media Contact  
Jonathan Jaffe  
973-315-0300  
[jonathan@jaffecom.com](mailto:jonathan@jaffecom.com)

---

## **Two Orange Students Earn Scholarships from the Orange Housing Authority**

**ORANGE – September 22, 2015** – Marie Mitchell and Amina Amparbin are both 18-year-old college freshmen, navigating between classes and balancing all the new responsibilities that come as adults.

One of the most nagging responsibilities is how to pay their tuition, as well as room and board, equaling well over \$20,000 a year.

Last night, the pair received a terrific boost from the Orange Housing Authority, as both were on hand at the Fifth-Annual Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament to each accept \$3,000 for their higher education. The money was raised through the generous sponsors and golfers who participated in the event.

Amparbin and Mitchell received a strong ovation as they accepted large, ceremonial checks from OHA Executive Director Dr. Walter D. McNeil, Jr. and OHA Chairman Coram J. Rimes, Jr.

“The Orange Housing Authority is tremendously proud of both of you and we wish you the greatest success in college,” McNeil said. “We are happy to help you as you take the next great step in your lives.”

Both students are from families living in Section 8 housing in Orange, which falls under the auspices of the OHA. Each spring, the OHA advertises for graduating senior among OHA residents or those receiving Section 8 vouchers.

For Mitchell, she can best describe the scholarship as a godsend, noting she is now attending a small, private college in North Carolina that will cost her \$32,000 a year. Mitchell believes she will be paying off her education at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, N.C. for many years, and this scholarship is a relief.

Mitchell said that Chowan University is the ideal school for her, as she pursues a degree in elementary education and was looking for the focus that a school of only 1,200 students can provide. “This is the only scholarship I’ve received so far,” Mitchell said. “It is making a real difference.”

Mitchell is the third member of her family to receive an OHA scholarship. Her sister, Regina Shields, graduated from the College of New Jersey in 2013 and is now looking forward to earning a graduate degree. Her other sister, Sabrina Jenkins, used the scholarship money to attend Rutgers University. She graduated in 2012 and is now an elementary school teacher at Dr. William H. Horton Elementary School in Newark.

For the other 2015 scholarship recipient, the money will help cover her tuition at Montclair State University, where she is beginning the road to a degree in biology. Amparbin said the scholarship is a huge boost, as she also embarks on a work study program in which she earns \$8.25 an hour by serving as an assistant in the university's theater department. This year, she is receiving \$17,000 in scholarships and financial aid in her pursuit of higher education.

“I am so appreciative of this scholarship as paying for college is always a big thing on my mind,” Amparbin said. “I’m working at the theater department from 5-11 p.m. every day, helping them clean it up, just to earn as much money as I can to pay my tuition. So, I really appreciate all the Orange Housing Authority is doing to help me.”

Amparbin is a June graduate of American History High School, a magnet school in Newark that has a rigorous program. For example, she took five major math courses in just four years of high school in an effort to get an edge and the best public education possible.

“I was shocked to get this scholarship,” she said. “The housing authority somehow got my name and urged me to apply. I wrote an essay, I went in for an interview and now here I am, accepting this scholarship. The Orange Housing Authority has been a great help and I am so thankful to be here.”

end



**Photo caption:**

(From left to right: OHA Commissioner Ernest Williams., Marie Mitchell, OHA Executive Director Dr. Walter D. McNeil, Jr. and Amina Amparbin)